

GENERALL ¹⁴ LESLEYS SPEECH

In the Parliament of Scotland, the 25. of October,
1641. In defence of himselfe upon certaine slanders
which are reported of him.

*Wherein he expresseth his affection to the King and King-
dome of England.*

Also concerning the Traytors of Scotland which did lay a plot
to take away his life.



Printed at London for T.B. 1641.

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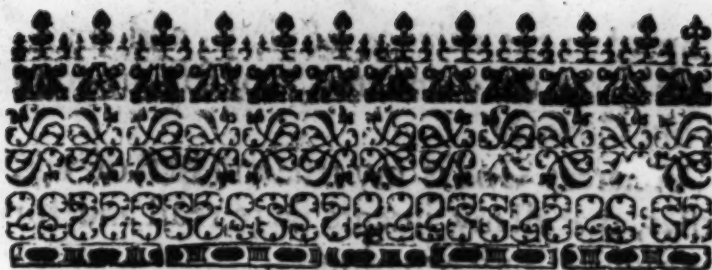
OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

WASHINGTON



1850



Generall *Lesley's*
SPEECH
IN
PARLIAMENT.

My Lords,

TO purge my selfe of some
slandorous accusations, I
have presumed to present
my selfe before your ho-
nours, thereby to stoppe
the mouthes of my ene-
mies, and to revive the
former good opinion which true and loyall
subjects have had of mee: There have beene
some lately my Lords, which have not beene
ashamed to say, that whatsoever of late I at-
tempted

tempted in the defence of piety and truth,
were all for my owne ends, not for the good
of my Country.

Whereas God is my true and best of wit-
nesses, that all my intents were reall and for
the good of both Kingdomes.

My Noble Lords, it is unknowne to very
few of you that I have exercised armes these
many yeares, almost from my childhood, ^m
and yet did I never take part with the Church
of Rome, but have alwaies beene a sworne
foe against it.

Many battells have I fought since fortune
was my friend to make me a Commander;
but (I praise God) not speaking in a boasting
way, as yet I never left the field but was ^{as}
crowned with victory.

I was your Generall against England, and
yet not against it but for it, as it hath now ^m
happened by the most happy pacification.

Ye see my Lords now, that nature doth claim
its due, old age overcommeth the strongest,
but yet were there occasion in England for to
employ me against a forraine foe, my service
should attend the Kings command, I would ^m
make use of my best of skill to overthrow his
foes: I know my Lords that I have beene
ensured hard of abroad, but I hope that my
truth

truth and loyalty to my Sovereigne, shall stop
the lying tongue of flying fame; a long time
was I branded with that accursed title of traitor
which my soule abhorres, and to defend
my innocency, my heart at all times is ready.

My Lords, give me licence to make use of
a dolefull expression, which is for the ingrati-
tude of those for whom I feared not to ven-
ture my dearest blood, yet these deceitfull
Judas have agreed together to betray mee
and snatch away my short breathing life.

How many dayes when they have beene
sporting and taking their pleasures, have I
beene taking paines, and studying for to pre-
serve both them and their families? How
many nights have I watched, when they have
beene mantled in their silkes, and prostrated
upon their downe beds, taking their sweet, si-
lent and quiet rest: And yet for all this my
Lords, am I the marke they have chiefly
shot at to destroy, for which the great God
forgive them, for my owne part I freely doe,
appealing to their consciences, which I
know can truly tell them, whether I have de-
served their hate or no.

But yet my Lords, give me leave to speake
both *pro* and *con*, although I freely forgive
them the particular injury which they
thought to have wrought upon me, yet must

the Law have its proceeding against them, for they which will goe about to robbe the King of his true and loyall subjects, will not be afraid in time to try their utmost skill to destroy the King himself. 13

O Ambition, Ambition! How loftily dost thou soare? For it is thee and none but thee which doth steere the actions of each disloyall traitor for being great, yet because they doe not daily arise to bee greater, they will strive to swimme to their intents through a sea of blood: What honour would these Lords have got to take away my life? O but they had greater prizes which they did aime at, but God did hinder them, who alwaies hath beene and alwaies will bee the defender of those which put their trust in him the living God.

In what a miserable estate are these men in now? They have gained themselves the everlasting hate of all good men, they have lost their honours, stained their Ancestors fame, and prejudicated their owne lives: Oh did a traitor but thinke before what hee went about when his minde is first hampering upon treachery! he would change his wicked resolution; for first, let him thinke of the danger which will follow, and then of ten hundred thou-

thousand times much more in the world to come.

My Lords, may I finde the joyes of heaven, but as truly as I meane faithfully both to my King and Country, and then were I certaine of an everlasting, most happy, joyfull and heavenly estate: That God would alwaies blesse King *Charles* our lawfull native King and Governour, & his true subjects shal alwaies be my praier, and so is it I know of all those which wish well unto Sion.

FINIS.

